

A RESOLUTION to honor Mr. E. Howard Whitaker upon his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have made invaluable contributions to their chosen professions, and have reached significant milestones in their illustrious careers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. E. Howard Whitaker is one such person who has been a major force for conservation in our great state for more than forty years; and

WHEREAS, by taking significant steps to ensure that our environment is sustained and our natural resources do not go unappreciated, Mr. Whitaker has provided intelligent and effective leadership in numerous soil conservation districts of Middle and East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker's commitment to conservation was evident early in life, as he worked as a trainee in Macon, White, Bradley, and Sevier counties while attending Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker utilized his talents further and became a farm planner for Greene County, after which he worked thirteen years as a work unit conservationist in Meigs County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker next ascended to the position of district conservationist in McMinn County and held that post for seventeen fruitful years, until he obtained his most recent position in Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments in Hamilton County stand unparalleled in excellence, as he has been a catalyst in the development of countless conservation programs and has been a stalwart proponent of conservation education there; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker is credited with the improvement and expansion of the Rural Abandoned Mine Program, a plan to discover and close deserted mines; and the development of a sophisticated plan to install animal waste control systems on dairy, swine, and broiler farms, thereby improving water quality; and

WHEREAS, under his sagacious direction, the Earth Team of Hamilton County has flourished, being named the best Earth Team in Tennessee three times and receiving national recognition in 1994; and

WHEREAS, perhaps Mr. Whitaker's leadership has been most evident through his efforts in conservation education; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a permanent conservation education program, which has educated over 12,000 students about soil and water, can be wholly credited to Mr. Whitaker, as can the "Ruby Raindrop" program, a cartoon character with an exciting workbook to teach youngsters about the necessity of clean water; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker has been instrumental in bringing several important conventions and meetings to Hamilton County during his superlative tenure, including the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts, the Water Quality Expo, the Tennessee Association of Conservation Educators, and the Tennessee Mined Land Forum; and

WHEREAS, appropriately, Mr. Whitaker serves on the steering committee of the President's Council for Sustainable Agriculture, and he has been the distinguished recipient of the 1989 Goodyear Award, the USDA Superior Service Award, and the USDA Handicapped Employee of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, his uncanny ability to define a problem, design a solution and persuade others to take action, has left Mr. Whitaker with no less than eighteen other significant awards; and

WHEREAS, as a skillful advocate for the environment, an innovator of conservation techniques, and an educator, Mr. Whitaker will most assuredly be fondly remembered in the

conservation profession, and his programs and legacy in that arena will be appreciated for many years to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the long and outstanding career of Mr. E. Howard Whitaker and recognize the many contributions he has made to the future of our great state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we congratulate Mr. Whitaker upon his retirement, and wish him well in his new life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Mr. Whitaker with this final resolving clause deleted from such copy.